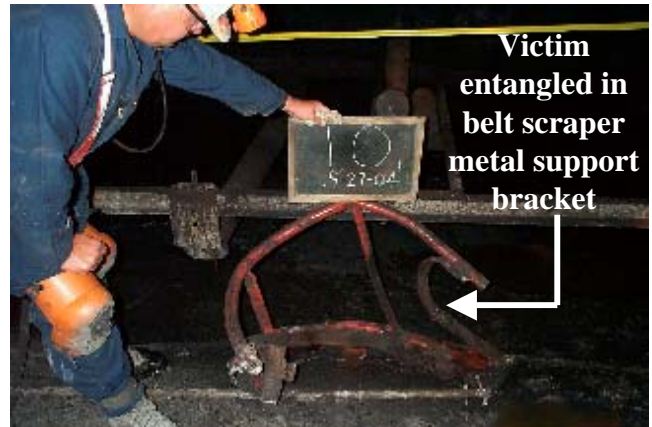
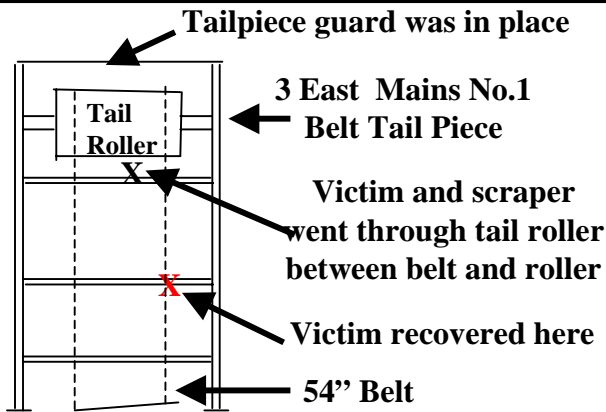


HAZARD ALERT LIVE TOMORROW

BELT MAINTENANCE FATALITY



On September 26, 2004, at approximately 7:00 p.m., a fatal underground powered haulage accident occurred at a large underground mine located in Buchanan County Va. A utility/beltman sustained fatal injuries while attempting to install an angle bottom scraper on a belt tailpiece while the belt was operating. The victim had twelve years total mining experience but had not worked in a coal mine since 1989 and had five months experience at this mine. The victim was attempting to throw a chain attached to the belt scraper between the top and bottom belts to a coworker located on the offside of the belt. This would allow the scraper to be pulled between the belts and attached to the belt tailpiece frame. Apparently, the chain became entangled in the belt which was moving at approximately 700 feet per minute, pulling the belt scraper and the victim, who became entangled in the belt scraper, into the moving belt. The victim and scraper went through the tail roller between the belt and the roller.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- Disconnecting devices shall be locked out and suitably tagged by persons who perform electrical or mechanical work on such circuits or equipment connected to the circuits.
- Never attempt to change out belt scrapers, belt structure, or perform similar mechanical work while the conveyor is in motion.
- Adequate training shall be provided to all mine personnel concerning the hazards, safety precautions and safe work procedures associated with performing work on or near haulage conveyor systems.
- Stay out of areas along a moving conveyor belt where clearance is restricted.
- Ensure all guards are adequate and securely in place.
- Belt maintenance personnel shall have devices in their possession to lock out and suitably tag circuits or associated equipment.

Please Post "2004"

For additional information or assistance, contact the
Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227
or Keen Mountain Office (276) 498-4533

ACCIDENT
REDUCTION PROGRAM

